

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 17294 300631Z

16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-10 AID-05 /073 W

----- 057563

R 291323Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE 3056

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 17294

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: MORE INDICATIONS THAT THE EMERGENCY WILL CONTINUE AND
THE CONSTITUTION ALTERED

SUMMARY: STATEMENTS BY MRS. GANDHI AND HER LAW MINISTER ON
THE EVE OF THE DECEMBER 29-JANUARY 2 AICC SESSION, AND
AICC DRAFT POLITICAL RESOLUTION RELEASED DEC. 28,
AND THE FAILURE TO MOBILIZE SARVODAYA LEADER VINOBE BHAVE
INTO A MRS. GANDHI-OPPOSITION MEDIATING FORCE (NEW DELHI
16957) HAVE (A) STRONGLY DISCOURAGED OPTIMISM ABOUT
SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL RELAXATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND
(B) UNDERSCORED THE IMMINENCE OF CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN A PRE-AICC SESSION INTERVIEW RELEASED ON DEC. 27,
MRS. GANDHI ATTACKED THE OPPOSITION PARTIES FOR DRIVING
THE COUNTRY TOWARD CHAOS BEFORE THE EMERGENCY, CHIEFLY
BY SEEKING TO WEAKEN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. SHE REMARKED
THAT "IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE CONGRESS TO CONTINUE IN
EXISTENCE, INDEED TO FLOURISH" SINCE IT IS THE "ONLY PARTY
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 17294 300631Z

WHICH ENJOYS SUPPORT FROM ALL SECTIONS OF SOCIETY AND FROM ALL

CORNERS OF THE COUNTRY." SHE ADDED THAT "THE KIND OF OPPOSITION WE ARE FACING TODAY IS NOT CONDUCTIVE TO THE UNITY, STRENGTH AND STABILITY OF THE COUNTRY. IT CAN WELL HARM US ALL." SHE CLAIMED THAT TWO STATES HAVING NON-CONGRESS GOVERNMENTS (GUJARAT AND TAMIL NADU) "ARE OPPOSED TO OUR PARTY" AND "WANT TO WEAKEN THE GOVERNMENT AT THE CENTER" AND CONCLUDED: "IN THE EVENT OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BECOMING WEAK, NO PROBLEM WHETHER INTERNAL OR ON THE BORDERS CAN BE TACKLED EFFECTIVELY." SHE ALSO REMARKED THAT CONSIDERATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES ARE UNDERWAY AND NOTED THAT ANY IMPORTANT CHANGES SHOULD BE "DISCUSSED IN DEPTH AND ALL THE SUGGESTIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WITH AN OPEN MIND."

2. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS QUOTE LAW MINISTER GHOKALE AS STATING IN CHANDIGARH DEC. 28 THAT THERE IS NEED FOR THE PEOPLE AND PARLIAMENT (HE DID NOT MENTION THE COURTS) TO MAKE IMMEDIATE "DEMOCRATIC AND CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES." HE CHARGED, THAT THE JUDICIARY HAS "LOOSELY EXERCISED" ITS "POWERS," PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF WRITS AND SAID THAT PARLIAMENT IS ENTITLED TO CURTAIL THESE POWERS. HE STATED THAT JUDICIAL REVIEW NEED NOT BE CONSIDERED AS AN INTEGRAL FEATURE OF THE CONSTITUTION. GHOKALE ALSO ECHOED THE PRIME MINISTER'S CALL FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES TO BE PRECEDED BY THE WIDEST POSSIBLE DISCUSSION AMONG THE PEOPLE.

3. THE DRAFT AICC RESOLUTION ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION (SEPTEL) OBSERVES THAT THE "GLORIOUS MOMENTS" OF INDIAN HISTORY COINCIDED WITH PERIODS OF "WISE AND FIRM CENTRAL AUTHORITY" AND THAT "WEAKNESS AT THE CENTER AND INDISCIPLINE" PRODUCED ITS "DARKEST HOURS." THE RESOLUTION STATES IT IS "PREMATURE TO CONCLUDE" THAT THE DANGERS THAT LED TO THE EMERGENCY" HAVE BEEN FULLY SURMOUNTED," AND PROCLAIMS THAT THE EMERGENCY WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THERE "IS THE FULLEST ASSURANCE THAT THESE DANGERS HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVELY CONTAINED." FULLY A FIFTH OF THE RESOLUTION IS DEVOTED TO RATIONALIZING ON HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL GROUNDS THE NEED FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES.

4. THE DECEMBER 25-27 BHOODAN CELEBRATION PRESIDED OVER BY GANDHIAN LEADER VINOBE BHAVE BELIED THE HOPES OF SOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 17294 300631Z

POLITICAL OBSERVERS THAT HE WOULD DRAMATICALLY APPEAL FOR THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. NEITHER MRS. GANDHI NOR J.P. NARAYAN ATTENDED. BHAVE'S REMARKS AT THE FUNCTION WERE GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO MRS. GANDHI. HE TOLD A CONFERENCE OF FOLLOWERS TO WORK FOR A NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF RULING AND OPPOSITION PARTIES. THE CONFERENCE SUGGESTED A ROUNDTABLE CONCLAVE OF PARTY LEADERS TO

RESOLVE POLITICAL DIFFERENCES AND EVOLVE A "NATIONAL
CONSENSUS."

5. IT CAME AS LITTLE SURPRISE AFTER THIS WHEN THE PROPOSAL
THAT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS BE POSTPONED FOR ANOTHER YEAR
WAS FORMALLY PUT TO THE CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE BY
WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER S.S. RAY DEC. 29 (NEW DELHI
17238).
SAXBE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARTIAL LAW, POLITICAL REPRESSION, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE17294
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750449-0732
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975128/aaaaagne.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <06 AUG 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE INDICATIONS THAT THE EMERGENCY WILL CONTINUE AND THE CONSTITUTION ALTERED
TAGS: PINT, IN, ALL-INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE, (BHAVE, VINOBE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006